

Mr. Weber on Nov. 4, 1980, achieved what a dozen Republican candidates before him could not: He defeated Thomas Ludlow Ashley, ending the Democrat's 26-year congressional career. In the presidential race, Ronald Reagan defeated Jimmy Carter. Lucas County results showed Mr. Weber had over 10,000 more votes than his party's standard bearer.

"He was proud of the fact that he did not ride on Reagan's coattails," the younger Mr. Weber said.

Two years later, Marcy Kaptur defeated Mr. Weber by a margin nearly identical to that by which he was elected. Ms. Kaptur has been re-elected every two years since.

He took issue, in a Blade Readers' Forum letter, with a report that he had admitted he could have done more to hold the 9th District seat.

"For two years while I served in Congress. I worked as hard as humanly possible to retain my seat short of compromising my principles and voting differently on the issues," Mr. Weber wrote to The Blade. "That loss remains the greatest personal disappointment of my life. However, I do not believe that anything I could have done differently in the 1982 campaign would have changed the outcome of that election."

Mr. Weber's startling defeat of the seemingly invincible Mr. Ashley was the product of a precision campaign plan effectively executed. He began planning more than two years earlier, before Mr. Ashley's November, 1978 victory. He first got the notion to run while working in his yard. He was then a volunteer for Mr. Ashley's Republican opponent.

"I felt that the country very badly needed a big change in its direction—away from overregulation, away from overtaxation, away from unemployment, and away from the inflationary trends," Mr. Weber told The Blade after his 1980 victory.

The younger Mr. Weber said: "His parents instilled in him a sense of community and civic duty."

The years since, he "developed a lot of respect for Marcy Kaptur," the younger Mr. Weber said. The former congressman and his wife contributed to Ms. Kaptur's campaigns on several occasions.

"He served with honor," Ms. Kaptur said Wednesday. "Ed and Alice Weber had a beautiful marriage and were committed to family, to faith, to community, and country. It was a lifetime of achievement, not just for themselves, but for our community. He was a gentleman."

As Mr. Weber returned to the practice of law, he retained his interest in the public good. He was co-chairman of a successful capital improvement levy campaign for the Toledo Zoo. He served as co-chairman of a campaign to find private funding for a museum ship on the Maumee River, what is now the S.S. Col. James M. Schoonmaker.

He tutored children in reading at a central Toledo school. He wrote the occasional letter to The Blade Readers' Forum. By the early 2010s, he no longer considered himself a Republican, having voted for Barack Obama twice, but also said he was not a Democrat.

He and his wife joined community members in arguing for Maumee River views and green space as they publicly spoke out against ProMedica's six-story parking garage in Promenade Park. In 2015, Mr. Weber endorsed the mayoral candidacy of another vocal opponent to the garage, Mike Ferrler, a former member of Toledo City Council who was defeated in a close contest for mayor in 1993.

Edward Ford Weber was born July 26, 1931, to Elenore and Ford R. Weber and grew up on Scottwood Avenue in the Old West End. He was a 1949 graduate of Scott High School,

where he played football. He received a bachelor's degree from Denison University, where he majored in mathematics and music.

He was a 1956 graduate of Harvard law school and afterward served in the Army at Fort Belvoir, Va., assigned to the judge advocate as an attorney in the legal assistance office. He began his legal career at the firm then known as Marshall, Melhorn, Bloch & Belt.

When Craig Frederickson was hired by the firm in 1975, Mr. Weber became his mentor and managing partner.

"I was so lucky," Mr. Frederickson said. "I have to say he was probably one of the most remarkable individuals I've ever known—his integrity, his ethics, his brilliance, and his ability to handle and teach a young attorney with patience. It was so impressive. His dealing with clients—he was honest and truthful. He actually cared."

George Glasser, a retired judge of the Ohio 6th District Court of Appeals, said: "He was an individual who had the courage of his convictions and stood for integrity and everything good."

From 1967–79, Mr. Weber taught trusts and estates at the University of Toledo law school.

He was a life member of what is now Ashland Church, from its historic home in central Toledo through its relocation more than 15 years ago to Oregon. He had been a trustee of the YMCA of Greater Toledo; the Toledo Museum of Art; the Red Cross in Toledo; the Clement O. Miniger Memorial Foundation; the Landman-Goldman Foundation, and the University of Chicago Divinity School.

He was a former district Boy Scouts chairman and was a scoutmaster for 13 years of a central Toledo troop.

Music was a favorite avocation. When he entered Denison, he took the advice of his mother—who oversaw many entertainment programs at their church—and enrolled in a course in harmony, along with prelaw studies.

After law school, he sang in the church choir and composed prayer responses and organ music. Mr. Weber in 1977, directed a performance of a musical he composed, "One Solitary Life," based on the life of Jesus. He dedicated the work to his mother. He also composed the processional march for his daughter Mary's wedding.

He played clarinet in the Maumee Community Band and played piano and trombone.

He also enjoyed hiking and backpacking out west and sailing the Great Lakes.

Surviving are his wife, the former Alice Hammerstrom, whom he married March 30, 1957; daughters Elenore Weber and Mary Due; son, Ford Weber; six grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Family and friends will be greeted from noon–7 p.m. March 24 at Walker Funeral Home, Sylvania Township. Services will be private.

The family suggests tributes to the Toledo Museum of Art or the Toledo Public Schools Foundation.

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RECOGNIZING TAMPA BAY'S LOCAL TRAILBLAZER, CELESTE GIBBONS-PEOPLES, IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Celeste Gibbons-Peoples

for her nearly four decades of public service to the Tampa Bay community. Her influence in our community follows a tradition of excellence pioneered by her late father. Walter Lee "Dirk" Gibbons, who was a well-known Negro League Baseball player locally and nationally. She has committed her life to telling the stories of Black pioneers and celebrating the rich Black history of the Tampa area.

Born in the basement of a clinic in Ybor City and raised in East Tampa, Ms. Gibbons-Peoples attended Hillsborough High School and Hillsborough Community College where she started to foster her appreciation for Black history and its importance in life-long education. Her passion for this cause led her to become an active member of the City of Tampa's Black History Committee, Inc. for more than 30 years and served as its president 2014 through 2022. The Committee has awarded more than \$250,000 to high school seniors to further their education through college, university or vocational school.

Ms. Gibbons-Peoples came to City of Tampa government in 1985 and is currently its certified senior procurement analyst. Her hard work has not gone unnoticed by her colleagues and peers—in 2017, she was named Buyer of the Year by the National Institute of Government Purchasing for Tampa Bay.

Ms. Gibbons-Peoples continues to be a role model in our community. In 2010, she obtained her Certified Professional Public Buyer's (CPPB) certification and is also a Florida Certified Contract Manager (FCCM). Her love for her profession drives her position as president of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing. Through this organization, she helps provide educational opportunities for current and striving Purchasing Procurement professionals.

Volunteer work also plays an integral part in Ms. Gibbons-Peoples's impact on the Tampa Bay community. Her contributions include United Way Suncoast, Great American Teach-In, Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee, Inc., Ladies Auxiliary for the Woods and Wanton Tampa Chapter for Buffalo Soldiers, and the Community Charter Schools of Excellence. As a coach for the Boys and Girls Club and Police Athletic League, Ms. Gibbons-Peoples has helped children realize their true potential. In addition, she serves as president of the Usher Ministry No. 2 at Springhill Missionary Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker. I rise today in admiration and respect for Ms. Celeste Gibbons-Peoples who is the embodiment of altruism and forms an integral part of Tampa's own Black history.

HONORING ERICA BRADLEY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a hardworking and impactful leader, Ms. Erica Bradley. Ms. Bradley has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve success.

Ms. Erica Bradley has been named Jefferson County School District's 2022–2023 Teacher of the Year. She is a second-year

English Language Arts teacher. She plans, develops, and compiles comprehensive language-based skills for all students while delivering quality instruction to impact their overall developmental success. She is also a member of the School Leadership Team, the School Improvement Committee, the PBIS Committee, the Chair of the ELA Department, and the Upper Elementary Reading Club.

Ms. Bradley is a native of Jefferson County and graduated from Jefferson County High School with the class of 2009. She is the mother of a son, Omarian, who is currently an 8th grade student.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Erica Bradley for her passion and dedication to education in the Jefferson County School District.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO MODIFY THE REQUIREMENT TO REMAIN OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES FOR COMMON-WEALTH ONLY TRANSITIONAL WORKERS

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, three years of pandemic have taken a toll on businesses nationwide and, especially, in isolated, one-industry economies like that of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Policies that made sense before a pandemic shut down the tourism industry in the islands I represent are now actually making recovery more difficult.

So, today, I am introducing legislation to ease the return to normalcy by recognizing the impact of the pandemic.

My bill will delay for three years the effective date of a provision of the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act, Public Law 115–218, that is making it more expensive and more difficult for businesses in my district to recover.

This is the so-called “touchback” provision of that law that requires employers to send certain foreign workers back to their home country at least every three years. Doing so has, of course, proven problematic during the pandemic, when flights were interrupted and increasingly costly. In some cases, home country ingress provisions made it difficult for workers to return.

In the meantime, the purpose of the touchback requirement has been fulfilled. It was intended to reduce reliance on foreign workers and encourage investment in U.S. workers. And that is precisely what has occurred, even without implementation of touchback.

During the pandemic the number of U.S. workers employed in the Marianas has held steady near 13,000, according to the most recent report from the Governor required by the U.S. Workforce Act. The number of foreign workers, according to the Governor, has fallen from about 8,000 to 6,000.

Even without the requirement that certain foreign workers return home at least every three years, Marianas businesses appear to have shifted to a relatively greater reliance on U.S. workers. This is precisely the intent of Public Law 115–218.

Rather than striking the requirement from the law altogether, however—as considering this shift touchback may now seem unnecessary—my bill takes a more conservative approach to delay the effective date for three years, matching the duration of the pandemic.

The bill also makes clear the intent of the law’s authors—Chair Rob Bishop and Ranking Member RAÚL GRIJALVA of the House Natural Resources Committee, Chair LISA MURKOWSKI of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and me—with respect to the timing of touchback, as explained in our letter of July 22, 2020, to Samantha Deshommes, Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Ultimately, I respect the bipartisan agreement on a reasonable immigration policy unique to the Marianas that is embodied in the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act. Circumstances now warrant fine-tuning the touchback provision. Ultimately, however, I want to see that bipartisan policy through to its conclusion in 2030.

HONORING A.W. HOLT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable individual, A.W. Holt.

A graduate from Brinkly High School in Jackson, MS, where he participated in basketball, baseball, and track. A.W., who was also known as the “Awesome Wonder”, attended Jackson State University (JSU) and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education.

Holt played for the JSU Basketball Tigers and enjoyed a winning season each year while he was there. During his freshman year, his team won the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Tournament. The following season the Tigers won the Georgia Invitational Tournament, and he was selected as one of the tournament’s Most Valuable Players. That year the team also won the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Championship. In 1968, Holt was selected to the ALL-SWAC 1st Team.

During his junior and senior years, Holt served as Captain of the JSU basketball team, and was pitcher for the JSU baseball team in 1968. The team won a SWAC Championship. In 1969, he received All-American Honorable Mention and appeared in the 1969 edition of Outstanding College Athletes of America.

His success did not stop at the collegiate level. In May 1969, the Dallas Chaparrals drafted Holt in the 3rd round of the American Basketball Association (ABA). He also played for the Chicago Bulls in the National Basketball Association (NBA). During his career, he played for the Scranton Minors, the Northwest Travelers, and the New Orleans Jazz.

Upon his return to Jackson, MS, Holt was employed at JSU as Assistance Director and then Director of the New Men’s Dormitory. He participated in the Jackson City Basketball and Baseball Leagues as a player and an umpire.

In 2004, he retired from the Hinds County Sheriff’s Department after 30 years of service.

While there, he was named one of the three 1st Black sergeants and later 1st Black lieutenant at the Hinds County Sheriff’s Department.

Holt and his wife Margaret have 2 sons, Christopher and Alvin. Alvin is deceased.

A.W. Holt was inducted in the Jackson State University Sports Hall of Fame in 2004.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing A.W. Holt for his dedication and tenacity to serving his community and desire to be an example for all.

RECOGNIZING TAMPA BAY’S LOCAL TRAILBLAZER, FRED HEARNS, IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true Tampa Bay historian who has served this community with great distinction for many decades. Mr. Charles “Fred” Hearn is one of the foremost historians of Tampa Bay and Florida history. And, since 2021, he has served as the first Curator of Black History for the Tampa Bay History Center (TBHC).

Mr. Hearn was born in the Bronx, NY and grew up in East Tampa, Florida, graduating in 1966 from Middleton High School, the first high school for African Americans in Hillsborough County. He later went on to further his education at the University of South Florida earning a bachelor’s degree in English/journalism and a master’s degree in African studies. Mr. Hearn also holds a master’s degree in human services from Springfield College (Distinguished Graduate Award). He is the father of four adult children, sons Charles F. (Ricky) Hearn Jr. and Marcel Charles Fred Hearn, and daughters Cassanda Franklin and Charaneka Johnson. He also has five grandchildren.

He began his career as a journalist working for the Florida Sentinel Bulletin, St. Petersburg Times, Tampa Tribune, Ft. Lauderdale Sun Sentinel and then in the Office of Public Contacts for Southern University in Baton Rouge, La. In 1975, Mr. Hearn began a 32-year career with the City of Tampa and became its human rights director in 1992. He retired as director of the Department of Community Affairs in 2007.

During his tenure with the City of Tampa, Mr. Hearn worked on several major projects including leading the charge as president of the Middleton High School Alumni Association to reestablish his alma mater where a Pavilion now stands in his honor. He also worked as a consultant for the revitalization of the Perry Harvey, Sr. Park project and was a founding member of several civic organizations in the city such as the 78th Street Improvement Association, the Ada T. Payne Friends of the Urban Libraries and the Robert W. Saunders Library Foundation, Inc. Mr. Hearn also worked as a consultant for the ENCORE housing project in Tampa. He served on the Friends of the Riverwalk and on the Florida Advisory Committee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. In 2014, he was awarded the Robert Saunders Award for Community Service.